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ABSTRACT

An annotated list of 11 books, guides, and online information retrieval systems that describe available standardized aptitude and achievement tests, test reviews, databases, and other sources of testing information is provided. The list is designed to help in the identification of useful standardized tests. (TJH)

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ERIC Clearinghouse on Tests, Measurement, and Evaluation

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Finding Information About Standardized Tests

by Lawrence M. Rudner and Kathryn Dorko

Finding the right standardized achievement or aptitude test can be quite difficult. You need to identify a variety of potentially useful tests, collect and review technical materials, and identify and evaluate the practical considerations of using these tests.

This digest is designed to help you with the first step -- identifying useful standardized tests. In this digest, we describe

- books that describe available tests,
- test reviews,
- online information retrieval systems, and
- other source for testing information

The printed sources are available in most academic libraries. These sources only contain brief information concerning individual tests. They do not contain copies of the tests themselves. You will probably want to contact test publishers for more detailed information.

Books that Describe Available Tests

The following books have basic, non-evaluative information about a wide range of available tests. All include statements about intended audience, date, scoring, author, costs, and publisher.

- Mitchell, James V., Jr. (ed.), *Tests in Print III (TIP III): An Index to Tests, Test Reviews, and the Literature on Specific Tests.* Buros Institute of Mental Measurements, University of Nebraska Press, 901 North 17th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0520, (402) 472-3581, 1983, 714 pages.

  Tests in Print describes more than 2,400 published tests. It also contains more than 16,000 references about specific tests, a cumulative name index for each test that covers all references in *TIP III* and the nine *Mental Measurements Yearbooks (MMY)*, a directory of test publishers with all of the tests of each publisher listed, a title index that covers all tests in print and all out-of-print tests once listed in *MMY*, a name index to authors of more than 70,000 documents (tests, reviews, excerpts, and references) in the nine *MMYs* and *TIP III*, and a scanning index for quickly finding tests that are designed for particular populations.

- Sweetland, Richard C. and Keyser, Daniel J. (eds.), *Tests: A Comprehensive Reference for Assessments in Psychology, Education, and Business (2nd ed.).* Test Corporation of America, 4050 Pennsylvania, Suite 310, Kansas City, Missouri 64111, (816) 756-1490, 1986, 1,136 pages.

  This book concisely describes more than 3,100 published tests in a "quick-scanning, easy-to-read format." It gives a brief description and information about the population targeted by the test, the purpose, and administrative and publication information.

- *The Educational Testing Service Test Collection Catalog, Volume I: Achievement Tests and Measurement Devices.* Oryx Press, 2214 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-1483, (800) 457-6799, 1986, 296 pages.

  This catalog gives information about more than 2,000 achievement tests in the ETS Test Collection. It indexes tests by author, title, and subject category.

- Krug, Samuel E. (ed.), *Psychware Sourcebook 1988-1989* Test Corporation of America, 1988, 640 pages.

  This book describes 450 computer-based products used in psychology, education, and business. Most products go beyond simple test scoring and involve administration and report generation. The book has five indexes: Test Title, Product Category, Product Application, Service, and Supplier.

- Pletcher, Barbara P., Locks, Nancy A., Reynolds, Dorothy F., and Sisson, Bonnie G. *A Guide to Assessment Instruments for Limited English Speaking Students.* Santilla Publishing Company, New York. Out-of-print. Available through ERIC Document Reproduction Service, 3900 Wheeler Avenue,

TM012544

Alexandria, Virginia 22304 (800) 227-3742, TM 011 805, 1977, 223 pages.

While somewhat dated, this reference gives you leads to assessment instruments for native speakers of Chinese, French, Italian, Navajo, Portuguese, Spanish, and Tagalog. The instruments listed in this guide were designed for use with students in K-6 and were normed with students in the U.S. Descriptive, technical, cultural, and linguistic information is given for about 400 tests.

Test Reviews

Several major books give in-depth, candid reviews of available tests. The best-known books are:

- Mitchell, James V. Jr. (ed.) *The Ninth Mental Measurement Yearbook.* Buros Institute of Mental Measurements, 1985, 2,002 pages.

  The *Yearbooks*, published periodically since 1932, are a comprehensive source of factual and evaluative information about commercially available tests. *The Ninth Mental Measurement Yearbook* contains information about 1,400 tests and includes 1,266 original reviews. In addition to descriptive information and test reviews, this book has bibliographic references to studies and articles about specific instruments, and a current directory of test publishers.

- Keyser, Daniel J., and Sweetland, Richard C. (eds.), *Test Critiques.* Test Corporation of America, Volume I, 1985, 800 pages; Volume II, 1985, 872 pages; Volume III, 1985, 784 pages; Volume IV, 1986, 768 pages; Volume V, 1986, 608 pages; Volume VI, 1987, 712 pages.

  Test Critiques emphasizes the practical aspects of test administration. Each review in this series has an introduction, practical applications, technical aspects, and an overall critique of the test.

Online Information Retrieval Systems

Identifying and searching test information can be done quickly and efficiently through the online database system managed by Bibliographic Retrieval Services (BRS), 1200 Route 7, Latham, New York, 12110, (800) 468-0908.

BRS provides sophisticated search routines and access to databases that contain test information. You or your librarian can search by test title, parts of a title, subject, purpose, availability, grade level, or any combination of these and other descriptors. The following testing databases are available:

The Educational Testing Service File (ETSF)

ETSF is an online index to the tests contained in the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Test Collection. Developed to support the work of ETS test development staff, the ETS Test Collection has more than 14,000 commercial and unpublished tests. More than 8,000 tests that are currently available are in the ETSF.

Mental Measurements Yearbook Database (MMYD)

MMYD is an online index to the tests and reviews covered in the *Mental Measurement Yearbooks.* Approximately 1,400 tests and reviews are currently available. Although considerably smaller than the ETSF database, the MMYD has more detailed information about each test and more information that can be searched.

Other Sources for Testing Information

Other sources for testing information are described in:

- Fabiano, Emily, and O'Brien, Nancy. *Testing Information Sources for Educators.* ERIC Clearinghouse on Tests, Measurement and Evaluation, American Institutes for Research, 1055 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20007, (202) 342-5060, Report TME-94, 1987, 61 pages.

  This is a guide to more than 150 books, journals, indexes, and computer-based services and organizations that provide information about student assessment. It also includes a subject index.

- Crosby-Muilenburg, Corryn. *Psychological and Educational Tests: A Selective Annotated Guide.* ERIC Document Reproduction Service (TM 011 545), 1988, 35 pages.

  Developed as a guide to the extensive measurement resources available to patrons of the Humbolt State University Library (Arcata, California), this report identifies a wide range of books, reports, and journals about tests. It includes an extensive listing of references within specific disciplines, such as special education, counseling, and early childhood.

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